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Trail of the Red Coat



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Chapter 1 by Story Wars

Before I arrived, Maria has called and told me that her husband is on medically-induced coma. Too much coincidence, I thought. Juan is my key witness over a high-profile criminal case filed against representative Clarence Hogkin. He was the only witness of the supposed conspiracy committed between the politician and Mr. Dee Cojuanco, the owner of La Hacienda Petulla, to dispose of the Union leader Marco Antonio Perez.

Juan has once notified me that should he die due to an accident or whatever, it will never be an "accident." It was an eerie premonition which eventually became a reality. Although he's not dead, he was reduced into a state wherein he will fail to appear before the court. This would be a heavy blow against us, the prosecution.

"He was talking this morning! I swear, he was fine!" Maria briefed me soon as I alighted from my car. "But then, he went into a seizure! Madam! Someone is trying to kill Juan! Please help me take him out of here!"

"I'll see what I can do." Sensing precarious events to unfold, I immediately contacted Dr. Zordilla to hold Juan's scheduled surgery. The bullet fragments were removed from his stomach so

conducting another operation, even with Maria's supposed consent, is a questionable measure.

Juan is a controversial man so an... in this safe institution. "Have you seen his medical records?"... since so walk me through it."

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Turns out, Dr. Zordilla, my long-time friend, has just been appointed to take over his case. She decided to put him into coma after finding out several hematoma and other risks caused by various blunt-force trauma Juan sustained over the attack, two days ago. The gunshot wound was the most visible and seems like the prior doctor purposely ignored other injuries. What an ugly turn of events...

Things I need to divulge and things I need to keep from Maria is a linchpin to the outcome of my case. Although I assured her that the operation will be safe, I cannot tell her that the second surgery was caused by medical negligence... yet. Right now, I'm not sure how deep will I swim. Sharks are lurking and for the first time of my career, I received an anonymous call, telling me to back off.

"I told you didn't I?" First words I heard from this man who briefly entered the waiting area. "Back off counsel." No one would be under the impression that the strikingly handsome man beside me is an assassin. I just found it out myself. His cold lips on my cheek and the silver metal on my waist simultaneously resonated a quiet pop. "Goodbye mademoiselle." He smiled and softly leaned my limping body on the sofa. Only my eyes can move... someone...

Chapter 2 by ArchAngel



My assassin walks away. I want to cry out, to do something to stop him, but I'm sat paralysed and helpless. He calmly steps into the elevator and turns. As the doors are closing, he gives me a final nod and then he's gone.

I desperately look for help round the waiting room. A nurse sits at the reception desk, her head hidden behind the glow of a computer monitor, she can't see me, and couldn't have seen what just happened. An orderly walks to the elevators and pushes the down button. I can't speak, I can't even raise a finger, I desperately want him to see me, to notice something is wrong, and he does briefly glance in my direction, but that's all, and then the elevator arrives.

The orderly steps aside to let someone out, it's a woman. She's wearing a long red coat. She sees

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given a lethal dose." Fear grips me, I panic, I want to scream, but all I can move are my eyes.

She holds my arm, "No, it's okay, you're going to be okay." She takes a syringe from the pocket of her coat and removes the protective cap. "This is the Heptavalent antitoxin. You're lucky you're in a hospital, but even so, they wouldn't have been able to save you in time. No hospital would stock this, it's Army issue."

She pulls up my sleeve and inserts the needle, administering the antitoxin. Once she's satisfied, She looks over her shoulder. "I have to go now, it's not safe for me to be here." She smiles sadly, gets up and disappears through the door to the stairwell without looking back, leaving me on the sofa.

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